



news release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

January 3, 2014

Indy residents urged to take steps to stay safe during extreme weather conditions

INDIANAPOLIS – The Department of Public Safety is urging Indianapolis residents to take the necessary steps to stay safe during the upcoming siege of extreme winter weather.

Forecasts call for heavy snow Saturday night into Sunday followed by an extended period of sub-zero temperatures, which will create dangerous weather conditions in the Indianapolis area.

"We are facing a serious, extended weather event in Indianapolis and we all need to take proper precautions to stay safe," said Troy Riggs, Director of the Department of Public Safety. "We need to take care of our neighbors and be especially mindful of those who cannot care for themselves in a circumstance like this."

There are a number of steps Indy residents can take to protect themselves from the dangers that will accompany next week's weather. The divisions of the Department of Public Safety have begun to increase readiness efforts in advance of the storm and encourage residents to consider the following tips as they prepare.

- The homeless population in Indianapolis is encouraged to seek shelter now in advance of the arrival of the storm. Area homeless shelters are making necessary preparations and overflow shelters are being placed on standby.
- Don't drive if you don't have to. If you must drive, keep your gas tank full and slow down. Keep an emergency kit in your car that includes items such as first-aid supplies, bottled water, blankets, a flashlight with batteries and reflective gear. If your car stalls while traveling, stay with your vehicle and conserve fuel while maintaining warmth.
- Dress properly if you must go outside to prevent frostbite and hypothermia. Keep all skin covered, dress in layers and be sure to stay dry. In extremely cold temperatures, frostbite can occur in minutes. Parents should be vigilant with children waiting for the school bus or playing outside.
- Do not use appliances, such as the oven or stove top, candles or other non-appropriate methods to heat your home. If using a space heater to heat your home, make sure you follow all manufacturers' instructions on proper operation. Do not leave the space heater on at night while sleeping. Turn it off and shut the door to retain heat in the room.
- Keep pets inside and don't let your dog off the leash; dogs can lose their scent in the snow and easily become lost. Don't leave dogs or cats alone in a car during cold weather.
- Businesses, homeowners, and those occupying any property are responsible for clearing sidewalks of snow and ice to all for pedestrian travel.